LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently amended) An apparatus for inhibiting ~~fuels~~ fuel from flowing out of fuel tanks, the apparatus comprising:

a housing fixed to a top of a fuel tank, and having an evaporator opening communicating with a ~~canister; and~~ canister, wherein a major-diameter major through-hole is formed in a side surface of the housing, and the major-diameter major through-hole communicates the inside of the housing with the outside of the housing, and the major-diameter major through-hole has an opening width that is sharply reduced from wide to narrow in the direction from a bottom thereof to a top thereof, such that filling-up of the fuel tank with the liquid fuel is detected through an increase in gas pressure within the fuel tank when the level of the liquid fuel within the fuel tank is adjacent to the top end of the major-diameter major through-hole; and

a floating valve accommodated in the housing, ~~floating~~ wherein the floating valve floats on a liquid fuel, and ~~moving~~ moves up and down in accordance with up-and-down movements of a level of the liquid fuel to open or close the evaporator ~~opening;~~ opening, wherein the evaporator opening is closed with the floating valve when the level of the liquid fuel rises abnormally

~~the housing further having a major-diameter major through hole disposed in a side surface of the housing, communicating the inside of the housing with the outside and having an opening width sharply reducing from wide to narrow in the direction from a bottom end thereof to a top end thereof, whereby detecting that the fuel tank is filled up with the liquid fuel by increasing a gas pressure within the fuel tank when the level of the liquid fuel within the fuel tank is placed adjacent to the top end of the major through hole, and closing the evaporator opening with the floating valve when the level of the liquid fuel rises abnormally~~.

2. (Currently amended) The apparatus set forth in claim 1, wherein an opening of the major through hole ~~is formed as~~has a substantially triangular shape, one ~~of whose apexes pointing~~apex of which points upward and at least an upper portion of each of ~~two of whose sides extending~~ two sides of the substantially triangular shape, which extend in a generally downward direction from the upward-pointing apex ~~to the bottom side are formed as a~~is arcuate and ~~downwardly convexed arc, at an upper portion thereof at least~~downwardly convex.

3. (Original) The apparatus set forth in claim 2, wherein the substantially triangular shape has a base length "l" and a height "h"; and the ratio of "l" with respect to "h" falls in a range of from more than 1 (not inclusive) to less than 3 (not inclusive).

4. (Original) The apparatus set forth in claim 1, wherein the floating valve is provided with a cylinder formed on an outer periphery thereof, opened upward and disposed within the housing.

5. (Original) The apparatus set forth in claim 1, wherein the housing further has an opening, communicating with the fuel tank, at a bottom thereof.

6. (Currently amended) The apparatus set forth in claim 1, wherein the housing has a plurality of the major through holes formed on ~~the identical~~a common horizontal plane in a side surface of the housing.

7. (Original) The apparatus set forth in claim 1, wherein the housing further has a minor-diameter minor through hole disposed in a side surface of the housing and in the vicinity of a top inner surface of the fuel tank and communicating the inside of the housing with the outside.